

REMARKS

Claim 1 was in the application and rejected in view of Freishtat and Todd. Claim 1 also was rejected under Section 112 in view of several informalities noted by the Examiner.

Applicant has amended the claims to address the informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review of the claim and requests an opportunity to discuss any further informalities noted by the Examiner.

While Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in view of Freishtat (whether alone or in combination with Todd or other references), Applicant has chosen to clarify the claims to emphasize certain fundamental distinctions over the cited art. As the previous rejections were premised on an analysis of the Freishtat reference, Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons set forth below, Freishtat is readily distinguishable from the invention defined by the presently pending claims, and all claims should be allowable.

The invention defined by the presently pending claims, as amplified by the amendments to the independent claim herein, is directed to a method for manufacturing/providing a communications system to a customer. Via the presently claimed method, user requirements data are entered via a portal; the user requirements data include information indicative of a configuration of a communications system for providing voice and data communications to a plurality of users. The user requirements data are translated into configuration data; the configuration data are stored in a storage location in electronic communication with the portal. The configuration data are provided to a manufacturing agent, and the communications system is manufactured based on loading of the configuration data into the communications system. The communications system is provided to the customer, and the communications system is operative to provide voice and data communications to the plurality of users in accordance with the configuration data.

Such a portal-based system for manufacturing/providing a communications system for providing voice and data communications to a plurality of users is neither

disclosed in nor suggested by the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination.

Freishtat pertains to a system for delivering personal information, and more particularly for automated aggregation and delivery of electronic personal information or data, and automation of transactions using such personal information. Applicant does not understand this reference, particularly its teachings of personal information, to have any relevance to the problems presented by the configuration and manufacturing of communications systems based on entry of user requirements data. The various steps of the presently claimed invention are quite far removed from the teachings of Freishtat.

Todd, on the other hand, is quite different from Freishtat and also quite different from Applicant's invention as defined in the presently pending claims. Todd relates to a centralized system for distributing configuration dependent software revisions to a computer system. Todd does not, however, appear to contemplate the particular problems of configuring/manufacturing communications systems for providing voice and data communications to a plurality of users. Specifically recited steps of the presently claimed invention, such as the steps of entering via a portal user requirements data, wherein the user requirements data include information indicative of a configuration of a communications system for providing voice and data communications to a plurality of users, translating the user requirements data into configuration data, wherein the configuration data is stored in a storage location in electronic communication with the portal, providing the configuration data to a manufacturing agent, and manufacturing the communications system including loading the configuration data into the communications system (with the configuration data generated via the user requirements data entered via the portal, etc.), are submitted to be neither disclosed in nor suggested by Todd.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Freishtat is readily distinguishable from the claimed invention, whether considered alone or in combination with the other references. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0251.

No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,



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